UNITED NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/529
16 October 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session
Item 96 (b)

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, QUESTIONS RELATING TO REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS: QUESTIONS RELATING TO REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS

Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	INTRODUCTION	1 - 2	3
II.	ACTION TAKEN BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM	3 - 72	3
	A. United Nations Children's Fund	3	3
	B. United Nations Development Programme	4 - 25	4
	C. World Food Programme	26 - 29	8
	D. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)	30 - 31	9
	E. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	32 - 67	9
	F. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	68 - 71	16
	G. International Fund for Agricultural Development	72	17

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CONTENTS (continued)

		Paragraphs	Page
III.	ACTION TAKEN BY MEMBER STATES	73 - 94	17
	A. Austria	73 - 74	17
	B. Canada	75 - 76	17
	C. China	77	18
	D. Germany	78 - 81	19
	E. India	82 - 86	19
	F. Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	87 - 88	20
	G. Liechtenstein	89	21
	H. Norway	90 - 92	21
	I. Sweden	93 - 94	22

I. INTRODUCTION

1. By its resolution 46/108 of 16 December 1991, the General Assembly, inter alia,

(a) Appealed to Member States, international organizations and non-governmental organizations to provide adequate material, financial and technical assistance for relief and rehabilitation programmes for the large number of refugees, voluntary returnees and displaced persons and victims of natural disasters;

(b) Called upon the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner to continue their efforts to mobilize humanitarian assistance for the relief, repatriation, rehabilitation and resettlement of refugees, returnees and displaced persons;

(c) Requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to mobilize adequate financial and material assistance for the full implementation of ongoing projects in rural and urban areas affected by the presence of refugees, returnees and displaced persons;

(d) Requested the High Commissioner to continue her efforts with the appropriate United Nations agencies and intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental organizations in order to consolidate and increase essential services to refugees, returnees and displaced persons;

(e) Requested the Secretary-General to study and assess the environmental and socio-economic impact of the prolonged presence of refugees in the host countries with a view to rehabilitating those areas.

2. The General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive and consolidated report on the implementation of the resolution to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session. The present report is based on information supplied by member States and entities of the United Nations system concerning actions taken in compliance with resolution 46/108.

II. ACTION TAKEN BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

A. United Nations Children's Fund

3. The activities of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) related to the special needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa consist of collaborative programmes with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Food Programme (WFP), the World Health Organization (WHO) and non-governmental organizations. In countries such as Kenya, Sudan, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia, Mozambique, Angola, Liberia and Rwanda. UNICEF has provided relief and shelter materials, supplementary food, essential drugs and educational resources, seeds, tools and specific projects to improve or provide water resources and sanitation facilities.

B. United Nations Development Programme

Angola

4. Following the May 1991 Peace Accords, efforts have been made to address the problems of approximately 900,000 internally displaced persons, perhaps 300,000 returnees and a tremendous number of other needy Angolan nationals through phase II of the United Nations Special Relief Programme for Angola. In this context, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has continued to support the work of the United Nations Special Coordinator and the operations of the United Nations Emergency Coordination Unit through major staffing, administrative and financial assistance (including over $4.3 million in UNDP/IPF funds). It is also directly involved in assistance for the demobilization of soldiers of both the Government and Uniao Nacional para a Independencia Total de Angola (UNITA) through its vocational training project, with the creation of 50 training centres throughout the country.

Djibouti

5. The UNDP office in Djibouti has been called upon to provide an increasingly high level of its staff and other resources in the past year to support the functions of the Resident Coordinator. This reflects the changing context of the conflicts both within and immediately around the country, the significant refugee population, and the need for coordination of United Nations responses such as the appeals for the Horn of Africa.

6. Regarding longer term refugees, UNDP, in collaboration with the Government is implementing projects of the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa (ICARA II) for both refugees and local residents including diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis in the Dikhil area, assistance to the handicapped in Djiboutiville and the establishment of a youth center in Balbala.

Ethiopia

7. Drought, ethnic tension and insecurity, both in Ethiopia and Somalia, have created massive numbers of refugees, returnees and drought-affected and internally displaced people in Ethiopia. In response, UNDP, together with other United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations is participating in cross-mandate programmes to assist the affected populations without distinction as to their status as refugees, returnees, internally displaced persons or needy local residents.

8. Part of this approach involves setting up small development projects in selected communities in order to attract uprooted persons to return to them. UNDP involvement in such efforts includes funding for an irrigation and extension support project in Jijiga for the rehabilitation and hand-over of the state farm in Gode to the farmers and the rehabilitation of irrigation schemes in Kelafo. The latter two projects also seek to reduce the area's dependency on expensively transported relief grain.

9. Regarding the problem of reintegrating approximately 350,000 soldiers from the former army, UNDP has provided funding for a mission, which proposed an extensive programme of aid totalling $67 million and which has now been agreed to by both the Government and the donors. The programme is being implemented by the Government and financed by WFP and bilateral donors. Finally, UNDP directly supports the operations of the United Nations Emergency Prevention and Preparedness Group.

Kenya

10. Kenya is facing the combined effects of a major drought, internal displacements due to ethnic strife in the western part of the country and a large-scale influx of refugees from Somalia (as well as smaller numbers from Sudan and Ethiopia). There are now an estimated 400,000 to 500,000 refugees in Kenya.

11. UNDP provides the primary personnel and administrative and financial support required by the Office of the Resident Coordinator to respond to these interrelated problems. UNDP has also approved $50,000 in Special Programme resources to place a team of United Nations volunteers at the district level to assist in the coordination of relief activities, and $50,000 to help the Government in meeting the emergency needs of the 30,000 most affected victims of the ethnic strife.

12. The complex nature of the emergency, whereby desertification problems are being exacerbated by drought and refugees, has rendered even more important the cross-border/preventive zone concept for Kenya as described in the revised Special Emergency Programme for the Horn of Africa (SEPHA) appeal of July 1992. The Government of Kenya has expressed grave concern at the developing situation, particularly with regard to the already fragile carrying capacity of the northern part of the country.

13. In early October, the United Nations Disaster Management Team in Kenya met with counterparts from Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan. At the meeting a system of regular consultations on the situation in the four countries was agreed to, and the ongoing discussions between the World Bank and UNDP concerning the implementation of rehabilitation and recovery measures in northern Kenya was noted.

Liberia

14. Within Liberia, UNDP has financed the position of the United Nations Special Coordinator, as well as support staff and logistical support for the operation of the Special Coordinator's office and programmes. This has included the creation of four operational centers, funded by IPF funds from UNDP, in strategic locations in the country to enhance the humanitarian assistance delivery capacity of both United Nations and non-governmental organization programmes. A main concern of UNDP in supporting such efforts has been to facilitate the transition from relief to rehabilitation and reconstruction, and eventually to normal development activities. Such efforts

range from distribution of agricultural seeds and tools to promotion of local non-governmental organizations, playing both an immediate relief role as well as a larger role in post-relief activities.

15. UNDP is also assisting with plans for the development of a community-based area assistance scheme to facilitate the reintegration of displaced persons, returning refugees and demobilized combatants into their home areas. These plans would draw heavily on similar UNDP experiences in other countries, such as with the Programa de Desarollo para Desplazados, Refugiados y Repatriados en Centro América (PRODERE) in Central America.

Malawi

16. A joint UNDP/UNHCR programming mission in 1991 identified priority needs in refugee-impacted parts of Malawi, including small holder agricultural productivity, social and management development, health, water, road, forestry, education and income generating activities. Projects and programmes to address these needs have now been included in the UNDP Fifth Cycle Country Programme for Malawi and in the national development plan of the Government of Malawi. These initiatives offer an important model for improving the efficiency of programming for both refugees and local residents. However, attention is now needed to ensure that the extrabudgetary funds required for implementation are forthcoming.

17. In addition, UNDP continues to provide financial and technical support for refugee-related projects. A water project aimed at improving water quality and quantity by protecting 100 springs in a district most affected by refugees is being funded by UNDP from a United States contribution to the ICARA II Trust Fund. A health project, which is training 600 men and women health surveillance assistants to work in eight refugee-impacted districts of Malawi is being implemented with funding from ICARA II and the Government of Greece.

Mozambique

18. The combination of war and drought continues to plague Mozambique and to call for massive relief efforts, including on behalf of the over 3.5 million displaced persons and millions of persons who must depend on international food aid. Coordination of United Nations humanitarian assistance efforts is carried out through the United Nations Special Coordinator for Emergency Relief Operations (UNSCERO). This position is held by the UNDP Resident Representative, and major support for these coordination functions is provided by UNDP, including through the operation of the UNSCERO/UNDP Emergency Unit.

National liberation movements

19. Under the National liberation movement/IPF funds, a total of 16 projects are being implemented. The main fields of assistance are education and training (which account for roughly three quarters of the funding to date), health services, mechanical repair services and food production. The African

National Congress is the beneficiary of six projects and the Pan Africanist Congress of five, while three projects cover both. Namibians received humanitarian assistance through two projects, which have now been completed. A total of $17 million has now been committed for these projects, leaving $1.2 million available for additional programming.

Refugee education

20. Following the World Conference on Education for All, held at Jomtien, Thailand, in 1990, UNDP has been an active participant in the United Nations/non-governmental organization Working Group organized by UNHCR to address the education needs of refugees. As the result of the dialogue in the Working Group and in the context of human development strategy, UNDP and UNHCR, in collaboration with the national Governments, launched joint needs assessment missions to Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. The recommendations of the joint assessment mission have been integrated in the UNDP Fifth Country Programme for Malawi. These missions were co-financed from UNDP Special Programme Resources funds.

Rwandese refugees

21. Following the 1990 Dar-es-Salaam declaration, UNDP has collaborated with UNHCR, the Governments of countries hosting Rwandese refugees and the Government of Rwanda in preparation for the possible return of some refugees to Rwanda and the reintegration of the others into their host country. Demographic profiles of the refugees and assessments of their socio-economic status were carried out for Rwandese refugees in Burundi, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and Zaire. Relevant sectoral programmes and projects that are in line with the country development plans have been identified and formulated for Rwanda, as well as the countries of asylum. As envisioned at the Dar-es-Salaam Conference, the resulting plan of action is to be presented to a donors conference organized by UNHCR, OAU and those Governments who participated in the Dar-es-Salaam conference.

Somalia

22. Insecurity in the capital and throughout most of the country forced UNDP to suspend its development activities in 1992. UNDP has continued to operate the Emergency Unit in support of the work of the United Nations Coordinator for Humanitarian Assistance for Somalia and is exploring ways that it may help provide limited rehabilitation assistance in parts of the country that are accessible. In this context it is providing air transportation and telecommunications service to the United Nations and non-governmental organization staff working in Somalia, and is cooperating with the European Economic Community (EEC), USAID and UNICEF in the rehabilitation of the water supply system of Mogadishu.

Swaziland

23. UNDP is funding the ongoing costs of the secondary school previously established with joint UNDP/EEC funding in the Ndzevane refugee settlement. This school, for both Mozambican refugee and Swazi national students, is now also adding a pre-vocational programme to its normal academic curriculum.

United Republic of Tanzania

24. An ICARA II project for road rehabilitation and reconstruction in northwest Tanzania is now nearing completion, while another project in the health sector, which will include rehabilitating and equipping health facilities in refugee-impacted areas, is being finalized. An ICARA II project for assistance to cooperatives is being developed.

Zambia

25. Regarding ICARA II activities, a previous aquaculture project is now being followed up by a project providing aquaculture inputs extension services inputs to refugees and local residents in the Northwestern Province, where an extension project for marketing of honey and beeswax is also being implemented. Refugees from Mozambique and local residents in the Eastern Province are benefiting from a project to train community health workers and traditional birth attendants, as well as a project for cattle disease control.

C. World Food Programme

Djibouti

26. WFP continues to give high priority to providing assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa. In Djibouti, WFP is feeding 20,000 refugees in refugee camps.

Ethiopia

27. WFP is assisting a case-load of some 500,000 refugees and an average of 311,000 voluntary returnees in the face of severe security constraints impeding access to the target population.

Kenya

28. WFP has geared up to mobilize resources for 300,000 refugees from Ethiopia, Sudan and Somalia.

Malawi

29. WFP is involved in the resourcing of basic and supplementary food for 960,000 Mozambican refugees. Food commodities are delivered at two centres, namely Blantyre and Lilongwe, whence the Government and UNHCR arrange to deliver and distribute.

D. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

30. Habitat has initiated a number of projects in various countries under the umbrella of their national shelter strategy, from which returnees and displaced persons are expected to benefit. A case in point is Namibia, where a number of pilot projects have been initiated within the framework of the national shelter strategy with the objective of providing support to low income groups as well as returnees.

31. Habitat, in consultation with the bureau of the AFRICA Fund Committee, has also elaborated the preparatory phase of a project proposal in support of returning South African refugees. Habitat is actively consulting with the liberation movements and the bureau of the AFRICA Fund Committee on the modalities and resource mobilization for this project.

E. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

32. Over the past year, refugee crises in Africa have continued unabated. While the process of democratization has opened up increasing possibilities for solutions, notably through voluntary repatriation, the continuation or escalation of a number of conflicts has caused ongoing or new refugee flows. This has rendered necessary the launching of new emergency assistance programmes, as well as the strengthening of UNHCR's field presence to respond more effectively to complex refugee situations.

33. Responding to emergencies in Africa has proved to be particularly challenging to humanitarian agencies. In the light of recent experience, the High Commissioner has made emergency response one of her main priorities. This has involved the establishment of standby capacity in the areas of emergency staffing and relief supplies, and enhanced capability in needs assessment and emergency programme implementation.

34. The root causes of population movements and refugee flows in Africa have, as in the past, been both natural and man-made, involving varying combinations of political, economic, climatic and environmental factors. Moreover, the great majority of refugees in Africa have found asylum in countries facing major economic problems and often in the most remote and least developed areas. The impact of successive emergencies affecting millions of drought victims, refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons in the Horn of Africa, Angola, Kenya, Liberia, Mozambique and the Sudan have been particularly severe.

35. More generally, the effect of the drought in southern Africa on water resources, food availability and health is a cause of particular concern. It could, moreover, threaten the region's capacity to carry out some of the landmark reforms vital to longer term development.

36. Despite this somber picture, the recent impetus towards peace and democracy in many parts of Africa has directly or indirectly created opportunities or improved prospects for voluntary repatriation. Thus UNHCR, together with the relevant authorities in countries of asylum and of return is currently preparing for or implementing the repatriation of approximately one million refugees throughout the continent. For a large-scale repatriation to be successful, however, countries of origin must be assisted to reabsorb their nationals. The impending return of large numbers of refugees poses a very specific and urgent development challenge. The lack of adequate funding for repatriation and reintegration programmes is a significant constraint and has had an impact on the number of refugees who can be assisted to return.

37. Insecurity in all its various forms has proved one of the greatest challenges to the delivery of humanitarian assistance in parts of Africa. Over the last year, a number of UNHCR and other relief agency lives have been lost. The delivery of humanitarian assistance has been seriously disrupted or even halted as a result of threats to refugee settlements, refugees or returnees and the staff and property of humanitarian organizations. Attacks on supply routes have likewise jeopardized operations. Even after peace is established, areas of potential return are often littered with mines or unexploded ordnance, posing serious danger to returnees. UNHCR has called on all parties to cooperate in creating a safe and secure environment for humanitarian work.

West Africa

38. The refugee situation in West Africa has been marked by the continuing massive presence of Liberian refugees in neighbouring countries, as well as by the more recent exodus from Sierra Leone into Guinea and Liberia.

39. Attempts to find a peaceful and lasting solution to the Liberian crisis have not yet reached fruition. Nevertheless, recent positive developments in the country have resulted in the reversal of movements between Liberia and countries of asylum and improved prospects for eventual larger scale return. Despite progress made in the peace process, however, the present political and security situation in Liberia still precludes organized voluntary repatriation movements for the 655,000 Liberian refugees outside their country. Nevertheless, some 30,000 spontaneous returns have occurred since April 1991, mainly to Monrovia, plus an indeterminate number to the interior. The rehabilitation of infrastructure, which requires significant international support, the deployment of the Economic Community of West African States Cease-fire Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) forces in National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) territory, the disarmament and encampment of NPFL combatants, will, among other factors, determine the eventual rate of return of Liberian nationals.

40. In the meantime, UNHCR has continued to provide humanitarian assistance to West African countries hosting Liberian refugees. As efforts are made to create conditions conducive to organized voluntary return, the Office will continue with necessary preparations, notably the release of funds for repair

of infrastructure, including roads, transit shelters and water facilities. It will also continue its efforts to sensitize the major parties concerning the various requirements for a mass repatriation in safety and dignity, while stepping up assistance to spontaneous repatriants and related monitoring activities.

41. Tragically, the situation in the West African region has again been complicated by a new conflict in Sierra Leone, which has led to the internal displacement of hundreds of thousands of Sierra Leoneans and caused 175,000 to seek asylum in Guinea and 21,000 in Liberia. Further concerted efforts and political will are undoubtedly required to resolve the crises of the troubled West African region.

Horn of Africa

42. The situation in the Horn of Africa, where refugee and returnee emergencies coexist with large-scale internal displacement, widespread insecurity and famine, continues to pose one of the greatest challenges to UNHCR and other humanitarian organizations active on the African continent. In addition to the sheer scale of humanitarian needs, security remains a major factor affecting delivery of humanitarian assistance in the region.

43. Throughout much of 1991, the security situation in Ethiopia was a major obstacle impeding the effective delivery of assistance to refugees. Since January 1992, however, there has been a significant improvement in the situation and, consequently, in deliveries of food to the 430,000 Somali refugees in the east.

44. The deterioration of the security situation in Somalia, on the other hand, has caused continuing influxes of new arrivals. They have been assisted within the context of the new cross-mandate approach, in which agencies are working together to provide assistance on a non-discriminatory basis to refugees, returnees, displaced persons and affected local populations.

45. Since the events in Somalia in January 1991, the majority of the Issak Somali refugees in Ethiopia have expressed their wish to repatriate to north-west Somalia, subject to availability of food, rehabilitation of damaged basic infrastructure and peaceful conditions. Indeed, due to poor security in eastern Ethiopia, an estimated 100,000 have spontaneously returned home. It is believed that if land mines were to be cleared and the security situation to improve in north-west Somalia, large-scale repatriation would be a feasible, durable solution.

46. UNHCR re-established a permanent presence in Hargeisa, Somalia, in October 1991, but in view of the security and political situation in north-west Somalia, the Office, other United Nations agencies and a number of non-governmental organizations were compelled to recall their international staff in April 1992. Prepositioning of returnee assistance packages has continued despite the uncertainties surrounding implementation of the returnee programme, which is designed to benefit some 300,000 potential returnees in

1992. A joint mission involving UNHCR, UNDP and UNICEF visited north-west Somalia in June 1992 to assess the possibility of restarting the returnee programme, and the timing of such an initiative is under consideration. In this context, the re-establishment of an international presence and the setting up of field offices is currently being reviewed.

47. Meanwhile, UNHCR and non-governmental organizations operating in north-west Somalia continue their efforts, albeit on a limited scale and under difficult circumstances, to rehabilitate essential facilities such as water systems, health facilities, basic infrastructure and key access roads. UNHCR also continues to support mine-clearance operations.

48. The Office has not re-established its presence in southern Somalia since the second evacuation of staff, which occurred in May 1992. It is believed that no Ethiopian refugees assisted by UNHCR remain in Mogadishu.

49. In making every possible effort to carry out its mandate in Somalia, UNHCR has maintained a cooperative working relationship with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Special Humanitarian Assistance Programme for Somalia.

50. The situation in Somalia has also been a major factor in precipitating the mass return of Ethiopian refugees to their country of origin. To date, some 480,000 returnees have been registered. Efforts to disperse them to their places of origin have continued despite the security constraints faced by UNHCR. The original package consisting of payment of a reintegration cash grant to individual families is being replaced for reasons of cost and overall effectiveness by the introduction of quick impact projects aimed at benefiting both returnees and local communities with improved services and productive capacity.

51. In yet another manifestation of the widespread insecurity in the region, some 200,000 to 250,000 Sudanese refugees in western Ethiopia spilled back into the Sudan from the Gambela region of Ethiopia in May 1991. Emergency assistance was provided through Operation Lifeline Sudan, to which UNHCR provided financial and staffing support. Meanwhile, UNHCR, in collaboration with other United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations, has been transforming Dimma camp in western Ethiopia into a viable settlement for the remaining 4,300 Sudanese refugees.

52. On a more positive note, the repatriation of the residual case-load of 2,700 Ugandan refugees from the Juba area in southern Sudan was successfully completed in February 1992 in coordination with WFP. In addition, the voluntary repatriation of 3,011 Chadians was completed in May. Some 12,000 of the 20,000 Chadian refugees in the Sudan have registered for this programme, establishing a positive trend in favour of repatriation. It is hoped that the remainder will return to their country of origin after the harvest in late 1992.

53. With respect to Eritrea, discussions were held between UNHCR, the Provisional Government of Eritrea (PGE) and the Sudanese Government regarding the repatriation and reintegration of an estimated 250,000 Eritrean refugees from the Sudan. Contacts were also being pursued with a number of United Nations agencies to establish an integrated programme for the rehabilitation of likely returnee areas. The PGE views such an overall programme as a precondition to large-scale organized repatriation. Given the time needed to establish a programme of this nature, substantial organized repatriation is not likely to commence before the end of 1992. In the meantime, UNHCR has continued to provide for care and maintenance of Eritrean refugees in the Sudan.

54. Due to its position at the cross-roads of the Horn of Africa, Djibouti has been particularly affected by the political changes and subsequent instability in neighbouring countries during 1991. In addition to a heavy refugee burden, the country was also contending with a severe drought and internal disturbances in its northern regions. Within the context of UNHCR's annual programme and SEPHA, assistance has been provided in the form of food aid, health and water services and the strengthening of logistics to enable cost-effective delivery of emergency supplies to Ethiopia. Since April 1992, the Djibouti authorities have begun transferring some of the refugees in the capital to the refugee camps where UNHCR assistance is provided. Efforts are being made to strengthen the capacity of the national implementing agency, Office nationale d'assistance aux réfugiés et sinistrés (ONARS), through the secondment of a number of international non-governmental organization staff.

55. In recent months, Kenya has been severely affected by events in the Horn of Africa. Continuing widespread strife in Somalia and the inter-clan conflict in southern Ethiopia, coupled with severe drought and crop failure in both countries, has led to an influx of Somali and Ethiopian refugees. Over 300,000 persons had found asylum in Kenya by June 1992. In addition, drought in the borderlands has brought large numbers of nomads into the refugee camps.

56. The situation in Kenya has been further aggravated by the arrival of an estimated 20,000 Sudanese refugees fleeing civil war in southern Sudan. Problems of security, accessibility and land availability have been important constraints in providing assistance to the refugees, many of whom arrive in very poor condition. Drought has posed a major problem in Kenya, as the country is unable to cover its own food needs, let alone those of refugees. UNHCR has been providing emergency assistance in conjunction with non-governmental organizations, while WFP has been supplying basic food. Considering the lead time required to import the large quantities of food needed, a continuing flow of new arrivals would pose serious logistical problems for UNHCR and WFP. In this perspective, UNHCR has been attempting to promote a regional strategy to ensure that sufficient food is made available in the countries of origin and is maintaining close contact with WFP and other agencies to strengthen cross-border and cross-mandate operations. Linking the cross-mandate approach and cross-border operations, with the objective of filling gaps in assistance will, it is hoped, stabilize populations and prevent displacement in the border areas of the Horn of Africa.

Central Africa

57. In central Africa, the Peace Accords signed between the Government of Angola and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) have paved the way for Africa's largest voluntary repatriation - that of some 300,000 Angolan refugees, mainly from Zaire and Zambia. Preparations are under way in the host countries and in Angola itself for safe return to commence during the second half of 1992. Meanwhile, as a result of events in Zaire, spontaneous repatriations have been occurring since November 1991, and arrangements have been made to provide UNHCR assistance to those concerned. The aftermath of the civil war in Angola has left considerable quantities of land-mines and unexploded ordnance, which have to be cleared prior to any large-scale, organized repatriation. The Government of Angola and UNITA have assured UNHCR that they will speed up the ongoing mine-clearance activities, particularly in areas of return, as well as on main and access roads.

58. With respect to Rwandese refugees, the Dar-es-Salaam Declaration of 19 February 1992 entrusted to OAU and UNHCR the establishment of a Plan of Action for durable solutions to this thirty-year-old problem. It is estimated that there are approximately 500,000 Rwandese refugees mainly residing in five neighbouring countries. Technical studies have been carried out in Rwanda for the reintegration of returnees and, in the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda for the integration of those who do not wish to repatriate. UNDP is also preparing a similar mission to Burundi. However, the Plan of Action can only be implemented when the necessary conditions for return in safety and dignity have been met in Rwanda. It is hoped that circumstances will permit the voluntary repatriation phase of the Plan of Action to begin during the second half of 1992. In this respect, the recently concluded cease-fire agreement between the Government of Rwanda and the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) augurs well for the future.

59. Likewise, improved prospects for the voluntary repatriation of Burundi refugees from Tanzania in the foreseeable future have led UNHCR to embark on preparations for a return movement and subsequent reintegration in Burundi.

Southern Africa

60. Southern Africa has been affected this year by one of the worst droughts in living memory. This crisis afflicts all the countries in the region and particularly those people already most affected by conflict and poverty. The drought has, moreover, placed heavy additional pressure on normal government resources. In several asylum countries, the continued presence of large refugee populations is leading to antagonism and compassion fatigue among nationals. The impact on the environment is also of grave concern. As a result of the drought, major population movements are expected from Mozambique into neighbouring countries, especially Malawi (where an increased rate of influx has already taken the refugee population over the 1 million mark), Zambia and Zimbabwe. In addition, there have been movements of spontaneously settled refugees into camps.

61. UNHCR continues to monitor developments in Mozambique. It recently undertook a joint assessment mission to the region with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Government of Norway, the Norwegian Refugee Council and UNDP to assess prospects for voluntary repatriation and the potential requirements for such an operation. In this context, an integrated approach has been developed by UNHCR and UNDP in close consultation with the Government of Mozambique, non-governmental organizations and countries of asylum. The approach has been strongly supported, inter alia, by the Nordic countries at a meeting held on 22 June in Oslo. Despite a modest rate of voluntary repatriation, however, the security situation, drought and economic factors in Mozambique are such that large-scale repatriation for the estimated 1.3 million Mozambican refugees does not appear to be feasible in the immediate future.

62. The High Commissioner has stressed that it will become particularly difficult for UNHCR to attend to the particular needs of refugees and returnees in southern Africa unless the overall needs of the affected populations are adequately addressed. UNHCR has been coordinating its response to the serious food deficits for refugees with WFP and in close consultation with the Department of Humanitarian Affairs. To avert a major loss of life, however, there must be increased efforts on the part of the international community to deal with this unprecedented crisis.

63. In recent months, a number of difficulties and disappointments have been encountered with the voluntary repatriation of South African refugees. By early July 1992, 4,875 refugees and exiles had returned home under the UNHCR-funded operation launched in September last year. In South Africa itself, a cash grant covering a period of six months is being provided to some 10,000 returnees, including those who arrived before the commencement of the UNHCR-sponsored programme. In addition, individual donors are being mobilized for the funding of small-scale income-generating and training projects designed to increase returnee self-sufficiency.

64. Although an additional 3,000 persons are registered for return, not all are expected to do so before September 1992, when the programme expires. Reluctance to repatriate is due to a number of factors, including political and economic conditions in the country of origin, the arrest and detention of several returnees and instances of harassment and intimidation of returnees in certain parts of the country. UNHCR hopes that these obstacles can be overcome so that all refugees and exiles can return home in conditions of safety and dignity to participate as full citizens in their country.

Conclusion

65. Africa is a priority area for UNHCR and the budget allocation it has devoted to the continent has grown steadily every year, although it has been overstretched by large increases in the number of refugees. In 1992, UNHCR will devote 40 per cent of its total budgetary resources to programmes in Africa, which hosts some 30 per cent of the world's refugees. Nevertheless, the financial requirements necessary to achieve durable solutions to Africa's

refugee problems exceed the capacity of UNHCR alone and call for a concerted approach by the United Nations system and the international community.

66. In its resolution 46/108, the General Assembly raised the important issue of the environmental and socio-economic impact of the prolonged presence of refugees in host countries. UNHCR has prepared a conference room paper on this subject for its Executive Committee meeting in October 1992. Among other things, the paper suggests that UNHCR prepare environmental rehabilitation projects in refugee-hosting areas and returnee areas in cooperation with other agencies.

67. It is a matter of great concern, as UNHCR pursues opportunities for voluntary repatriation, that returnees will be going back to countries devastated by war and to areas inhabited by impoverished nationals or internally displaced persons. The capacity of such areas to absorb large numbers of returnees needs to be enhanced by comprehensive programmes for political, economic and social reconstruction. Unless effective measures are taken to ensure the link between relief and sustainable development, social tensions could well result in conflict and new refugee situations. Ensuring the success of voluntary repatriation thus goes beyond the mandate or resources of UNHCR alone and requires also significant development initiatives involving the active collaboration of the development and financing institutions of the United Nations system, of regional development banks and of bilateral aid programmes. Only in such a way can truly humanitarian and durable solutions to refugee problems be achieved.

F. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

68. The FAO Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS) continues, inter alia, to monitor the number and requirements of refugees and displaced persons in the context of the overall crop and food supply situation of the countries and the subregions and provide special reports. FAO, jointly with WFP, carried out on-the-spot crop and food supply assessment missions to both Ethiopia and the Sudan during November and December 1991; the 1992 wheat crop in Sudan was assessed by GIEWS in April 1992. Special reports were issued immediately after the completion of the missions. The requirements of the refugees and displaced persons in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia and the Sudan were included in the consolidated inter-agency appeal for the Horn of Africa issued on 1 February 1992. The requirements for Malawi were included in the special report of the FAO/WFP crop and food supply assessment mission, issued on 15 April 1992, and in the consolidated United Nations/Southern African Development Coordination Conference appeal for southern Africa of May 1992.

69. In Angola, a project entitled "Emergency Assistance for Agriculture Rehabilitation", which concluded in April 1991, greatly benefited refugees, returnees or displaced persons, even though it was not specifically oriented to their exclusive assistance. It provided inputs and equipment for the development of basic crops and for the rehabilitation of areas most affected by civil war. Another ongoing project, "Provision of Agricultural Inputs for

Horticulture and Fruit Garden Rehabilitation", is providing complementary assistance. In addition, a project entitled "Agricultural Assistance in Support of the Special Relief Programme for Angola", completed in November 1991, mainly benefited internally displaced persons affected by drought.

70. In Mozambique, there is an ongoing technical cooperation project (TCP) entitled "Agricultural Rehabilitation Support to the Displaced Population in the District of Boane".

71. For returnees in Somalia, FAO is implementing, also through TCP funding, a project on "Emergency Provision of Hand Tools to Returnee Farmers in Rainfed Areas of North-West Somalia".

G. International Fund for Agricultural Development

72. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is planning or carrying out projects in Senegal to help repatriates from Mauritania; in Mali, in favour of destitute nomads in the Kydol region, and in Niger for the return and socio-economic reintegration of persons displaced by drought to southern Algeria.

III. ACTION TAKEN BY MEMBER STATES

A. Austria

73. Austria will contribute 9 million Austrian schillings to the consolidated appeal for the Horn of Africa, earmarked for UNHCR projects in Djibouti and Ethiopia. A donation of 6 million Austrian schillings to the American Research Foundation for its work with refugees in Kenya is envisaged. It has also been decided to contribute 5 million Austrian schillings to the UNHCR programme for the repatriation of refugees to South Africa.

74. In 1991, Austria gave 1 million Austrian schillings respectively for the SOS children's village in Somalia, the alleviation of the famine in Sudan and the repatriation of refugees to Western Sahara.

B. Canada

75. Canada provided substantial assistance to refugees, internally displaced persons and returnees in Africa, as well as to victims of natural disasters. This assistance was provided through multilateral, bilateral and non-governmental channels.

76. In addition to contributions towards the core costs of UNHCR, WFP and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Canada responded to appeals for emergency humanitarian assistance. Canada's food and non-food contributions for the period from 1 April 1991 to 31 March 1992 are summarized below:

Country	Nature	Channel	Amount ($Can)
Africa	General	Red Cross	1 500
Angola	Civil conflict	United Nations/Red Cross/ Non-governmental organization	4 539
Djibouti	Civil unrest	United Nations	200
Ethiopia	Civil unrest/drought	United Nations/Red Cross/ Non-governmental organization	41 293
Horn of Africa	General	United Nations/Red Cross	492
Liberia	Civil war	United Nations/Red Cross/ Non-governmental organization	5 289
Mali	Civil unrest	Non-governmental organization	100
Mozambique	Civil conflict/drought	United Nations/Red Cross/ Non-governmental organization	24 116
Rwanda	Civil unrest	Red Cross	100
Somalia	Civil war/drought	United Nations/Red Cross/ Non-governmental organization	8 650
South Africa	Repatriation	United Nations	1 500
Sudan	Civil war/drought	United Nations/Red Cross/ Non-governmental organization	30 390
Western Sahara	Repatriation	United Nations	500
Zaire	Civil unrest	United Nations	2 383
TOTAL			121 052

C. China

77. In 1991 the Chinese Government provided the following assistance to refugees in Africa:

Botswana	3,000 tons of maize
Burkina Faso	500 tons of maize
Chad	Y 1 million aid
Central African Republic	10 tons of rice
Djibouti	Y 1.25 million aid and 300 tons of maize
Ethiopia	Y 5 million aid
Lesotho	1,000 tons of maize
Mozambique	300 tons of maize
Namibia	Y 700,000 aid
Sudan	Y 3 million aid
Zambia	3,000 tons of maize
Zimbabwe	3,000 tons of maize

D. Germany

78. The Government of Germany is deeply concerned about the continuing refugee problems in many parts of Africa, which constitute both a human tragedy for the people directly concerned and a heavy burden for the countries with a massive presence of refugees and displaced persons. Therefore, those African countries that, despite their own economic and social problems, host large numbers of refugees deserve the gratitude and support of the international community.

79. The Government of Germany has always accorded paramount importance to refugee matters, both in a national and an international context. Thus, Germany has always been one of the largest contributors to the programmes of UNHCR. In addition to its contribution to the general budget of UNHCR, the Government of Germany has made available funds from different budgetary sources for specific refugee projects, many of them in Africa.

80. In 1991, the Government supported refugees in Africa with DM 21.1 million from humanitarian assistance and DM 53.0 million from development funds. In addition, the Government of Germany is contributing DM 2 million to the special programme set up by UNHCR in support of African refugee students. An increase in this contribution is envisaged in the future. Furthermore, a substantial share of German food aid to African countries benefits refugees. It may also be pointed out that the German share of the funds made available by the European Community to assist African refugees amounts to approximately 28 per cent.

81. The Government of Germany wishes to take this opportunity to reiterate its conviction that financial assistance to the groups concerned alone, as high and generous as it may be, will not be able to solve refugee problems around the world. Only a coordinated strategy aiming at the prevention of new refugee flows and the creation of conditions in the countries of origin conducive to the voluntary return of refugees will bring about durable solutions.

E. India

82. One of the concrete steps taken by India was to initiate a resolution, passed by the eighth summit of non-aligned countries in Harare in 1986, for the creation of the Action for Resisting Invasion, Colonialism and Apartheid Fund or Africa Fund. The Government of India pledged to give Rs 50 crores (Rs 500,000,000) to the Africa Fund for assistance to the front-line States and liberation movements. In addition to this contribution, the Government of India presented US$ 5 million to Dr. Nelson Mandela of the ANC in 1990.

83. To supplement the Government of India's contribution and to enable the individuals and organizations to participate in the Africa Fund initiative the AFRICA (Public contribution - India) Fund was set up in 1987. Contributions to this Fund aggregating a little over Rs 2.5 crores (Rs 25,000,000) have been

received so far from a large number of donors, and this amount has already been utilized.

84. India has always given priority to helping liberation movements of South Africa to enable them to meet the needs of refugees and displaced persons. The following projects have been taken up in the last few years under the Indian contribution to the Africa Fund and under the AFRICA (Public contributions - India) Fund.

Project details	Beneficiary	Amount (Indian rupees)
Supply of consumer durables and transport vehicles	ANC	Rs 1.5 crores (Rs 15,000,000)
Supply of transport vehicles	ANC	Rs 54 lakhs (Rs 5,400,000)
Supply of medicines and essential commodities	ANC	Rs 1.4 crores (Rs 14,000,000)
Supply of essential commodities and jeeps	PAC	Rs 50 lakhs (Rs 50,000,000)
Emergency supplies	ANC	5 lakhs (Rs 500,000)

85. These projects were taken up in addition to the cash contribution of US$ 5 million to ANC. The Government of India has also taken up a new project for training of ANC cadres in India to commence in July 1992.

86. As Chairman of the AFRICA Fund, the Government of India also proposed and got approval for cash contributions to the liberation movements in South Africa from the AFRICA Fund. In 1990, the Africa Fund donated US$ 800,000 to ANC and $200,000 to PAC to enable them to meet the requirements of displaced persons of South African origin. In May 1992, the AFRICA Fund decided at the initiative of India to provide US$ 800,000 as assistance to the liberation movements in South Africa in the area of human resources development to enable them to meet the requirements of a large number of returnees.

F. Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

87. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya provided the following financial assistance for the children of refugees in southern Sudan and neighbouring States in April 1992:

(a) Assistance to the International Committee of the Red Cross in the amount of US$ 250,000;

(b) Assistance to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the amount of US$ 100,000;

(c) Assistance to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in the amount of US$ 150,000.

88. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya also provided financial assistance in the amount of US$ 10,000 to the victims of starvation in Madagascar and equipped medical convoys to three African countries, namely, Mauritania, Mozambique and Niger, the costs of which totalled US$ 300,000.

G. Liechtenstein

89. The Government of Liechtenstein has so far placed at the disposal of the ICRC 20,000 Swiss francs in order to support the special aid programme for Somalia.

H. Norway

90. The following gives an overview of the extent of assistance the Government of Norway has provided to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa during the period 1 January 1992 to 18 June 1992, including natural disaster relief. This assistance, in both cash and kind, has been channelled through United Nations agencies, the Red Cross, non-governmental organizations and other relief agencies.

	Norwegian kroner	US$ equivalent
Angola	1 500 000	234 400
Ethiopia	41 987 787	6 560 600
Eritrea	20 990 000	3 279 700
Liberia	1 800 000	281 300
Mozambique	29 175 000	4 558 600
Rwanda	355 000	55 500
Somalia	26 691 100	4 140 500
Sudan	23 969 613	3 745 300
Zambia	20 000 000	3 125 000
Zimbabwe	10 192 850	1 592 600

91. In addition to the above, US$ 390,625 has been provided for humanitarian assistance activities in Africa as a part of Norway's contribution to the Central Emergency Revolving Fund (total contribution is US$ 1.6 million).

92. Furthermore, the Government of Norway contributed US$ 6,250,000 to a campaign to raise funds among Norwegians for emergency assistance to drought and hunger-stricken people in Africa. Of this contribution US$ 1.88 million was allocated to the Horn of Africa, and US$ 4.38 million to the southern African countries, of which Mozambique received US$ 2.03 million and Zimbabwe US$ 1.56 million.

I. Sweden

93. For the fiscal year 1991/92, approximately SKr 322 million was allocated for refugees, returnees and displaced persons in southern Africa, of which approximately SKr 96 million was emergency assistance to Mozambique and SKr 66 million was emergency assistance to Angola.

94. Approximately SKr 160 million was given to refugees, displaced persons and returnees in other southern African countries. This assistance has been channelled through the Governments concerned, the African National Congress, non-governmental organizations (for example churches and scholarship programmes) and the United Nations system, including its Trust Fund for South Africa and its Educational and Training Programme for South Africa.